

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first paragraph with the following:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. non-provisional patent application no. 09/502,043, filed February 11, 2000, entitled "Fiber and Wire Communication System," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. non-provisional patent application no. 09/460,770, filed December 14, 1999, entitled "Fiber/Wired Communication System." This application also claims the benefit of priority to provisional application no. 60/131,421, filed April 28, 1999, entitled "HFC Architecture in the Making," and provisional application no. 60/120,373, filed February 17, 1999, entitled "Fiber/Wired Communication System." The prior applications noted above are each incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--